

NOW IN OFFICE

William Howard Taft Takes
Oath as President.

CEREMONY IN SENATE

Stormy Weather Causes Departure from Precedent.

ICE AND SNOW ON STANDS

Worst Inauguration Day Since March
4, 1873.

CHILLED BY A VERY COLD DAY

But Notwithstanding the Inclemency, the Parade Was Most Impressive, and the Marchers Kept Well in Line and Merited the Ovarations They Were Accorded—Ex-President Roosevelt Applauds His Successor as Mr. Taft Kisses Bible and Says "So Help Me God"—A Dignified and Impressive Scene in the Senate Chamber.

William Howard Taft, of Ohio, was inaugurated the twenty-seventh President of the United States yesterday.

The inauguration was remarkable in that it took place, contrary to precedent, not in the open air, but, owing to the inclemency of the weather, within the Senate chamber of the United States.

Outside, a blizzard that had been raging all night was still blowing. The northwest wind dashed the wet snow into the faces of those that dared to brave it. The big stands erected at the east front of the Capitol were rendered useless because of their thick coverings of ice and snow, which all the labors of the fire department, called out for the emergency, were unable to cope with, and, after a consultation between the Committee of Arrangements of Congress, in which it was decided that it was unwise to submit people to the fury of the storm, arrangements were hastily made to hold the ceremonies in the Senate chamber.

None the Less Impressive.

They were none the less impressive for being held there, though some of the more ardent enthusiasts who gathered at the east front of the Capitol were disappointed. For there had been much striving for seats in the open air to witness the inaugural ceremonies, and all of these were rendered useless by the sudden and unexpected turn of the weather, which made this, according even to the oldest-timer, the worst inauguration day in the memory of man.

But for President Taft, for the officials connected with the ceremony, for the Senators and Representatives and the foreign diplomats, it was much more comfortable. And, in a way, perhaps, it was more dignified. For after the Senate had adjourned sine die, Vice President Fairbanks said his dignified farewell and Vice President Sherman assumed the gavel of office, and President Roosevelt and President-elect Taft entered the Senate chamber arm in arm, the one to lay down the burden of seven years' responsibility; the other to take up the reins of office and assume the position as chief of the greatest nation of the earth.

Led in the Applause.

And it is one of the significances of American politics that when, kissing the Bible, President Taft took the oath of office with the final

Blackstone's Flowers, Gorgeous—finely developed specimens. At 14th & H.

Railroad Tickets Exchanged At 1335 F st., opposite Ebbitt House.

Baltimore and Ohio Express Trains to Baltimore

"Every Hour on the Hour" during the day weekdays from Union Station, 7 a. m. to 11 p. m. Similar service returning.

WEATHER FORECAST.

For the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia—Fair to-day and to-morrow, with slowly rising temperature; diminishing west to northwest winds.

STORM DELAYS ROOSEVELT.

New York, March 4.—Col. Roosevelt and the members of his family reached here at 11:30 to-night, five hours late.

They left on a special train for Oyster Bay.

words, "So help me God," the ex-President—"ex" from that instant—standing alone, an isolated figure on the green carpet in front of the Vice President's desk, led vigorously the applause.

It was the worst inauguration day that the country has ever known from that day—March 4, 1873, a "very cold, clear day"—when Gen. Grant was inaugurated for the second time. There have been bad days since then, but none equal to that of yesterday. For, in spite of the hopes which had come through many days of fair weather recently, bit by bit the weather gradually grew worse, until on Wednesday evening with one tremendous thunder clap and one brilliant flash of lightning there was ushered in a storm. At first it was rain that pelted down mercilessly. But by 10 o'clock on Wednesday evening the rain had become commingled with snow; and by midnight it was snow pure and simple—great big flakes that settled on the cold sidewalks and streets, just mushy enough to hold all the water that had fallen and not warm enough to melt, so that late stragglers on Wednesday night had to walk home literally ankle deep in water. By daylight Thursday morning Washington was in the throes of a blizzard.

Quantities of Snow. The snow fell in great quantities, and the wind caught it up and blew it in every direction; and the abnormally low temperature froze it so that it clung about the trees, breaking off their branches, and wrapped itself around the telegraph wires, bringing wires and poles to the ground, and making the streets almost impassable.

It was such bitter weather that there were mighty few people among the thousands of visitors to Washington who dared to brave it, and during the early hours of yesterday morning the streets were practically deserted. It certainly looked blue for the success of the inauguration.

Wherever stands had been built for the accommodation of the visitors—and on many of the stands a great majority of the seats had already been sold—the benches and chairs were piled high with snow, so that even if the inaugural parade went off as had been originally planned, it seemed that no one would have had courage enough to take the seats, for which considerable prices had been paid.

Have with Decorations.

Nor had the blizzard been idle during the night. It had played havoc throughout the city with the ornate decorations on which so much time and labor and money had been expended. The court of honor was not exempt from the fury of the storm. The flowers in the golden baskets that crowned the pillars of the court of honor were bedraggled and broken, and the flowers blown to the four winds. The laurel garlands suspended between the pillars that marked the space in Pennsylvania avenue from the Mills Building to Fifteenth street had in many cases been so loaded down with frozen snow that the supports were broken and the laurel leaves were wrapped around the poles in strange disorder.

At the intersection of G street with Fifteenth, where a huge campaign banner bearing the picture of President Taft and Vice President Sherman had been suspended, there remained only a shred of tattered rags and netting hanging forlorn against the walls of the Riggs House. Down the Avenue from the Treasury Building to the White House, one might see where the persistent storm, which had furled during the long hours of the night, had twisted the draped flags from their places, broken flagstaffs, and torn down, ruthlessly, pendants from which electric lights were hung.

So that the whole scheme of beautiful decoration—beautiful, that is, had the weather behaved itself—was in many places a fine picture of perfect disorder.

Mantle of White.

And yet, the unaccustomed blizzard—the one really bad day that Washington has known all this winter, such is the irony of fate—was not without its compensation. For every place where the snow had fallen it had stuck, and much of the garishness of the decorations was toned down by the mantle of white with which nature's tempest had clothed them.

Everywhere along the line of procession the trees were made more beautiful by the glistening frozen burdens they were forced to bear, and had it not been for the fact that it was bad under foot, that walking was a positive displeasure, one might not have regarded the blizzard as an unneeded evil.

One thing the blizzard showed, and the demonstration was markedly effective, and that was the striking efficiency of the District Commissioners in case of emergency. Hundreds of men were put to work to clear off the Avenue and the

Continued on Page 10, Column 2.

Matinee, Cohn & Harris' Minstrels, To-day, Columbia Theater, 5c to \$1.50.

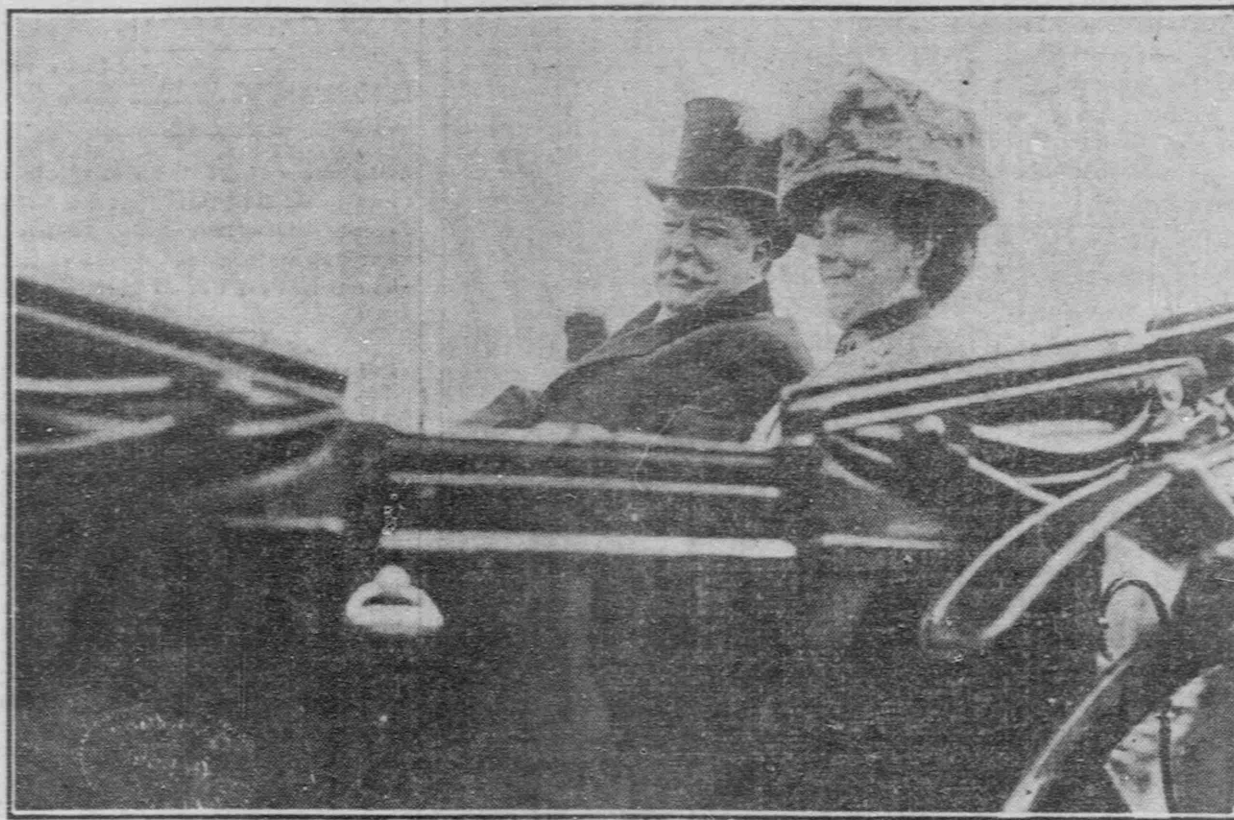
\$10 New York and Return, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

Tickets good 11 days. Royal Blue trains leave Union Station 7 a. m., and 1, 3, 5 p. m., and 12:15 night and 2:30 a. m. Ter-

minals at 22d st. and foot of Liberty st., New York.

Violets, 5c per bunch. Kramer, 215 F.

FROM THE CAPITOL TO THE WHITE HOUSE.



THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. TAFT.

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INAUGURATION DAY IN BRIEF.

MARRED BY THE WEATHER.

A snowstorm that, during the morning hours, became blizzardlike in its proportions, marked Inauguration Day, 1909, and marred the ceremonies and pageant incident thereto. The streets of Washington were all but impassable for a time, and visitors and participating organizations suffered severely from the untoward conditions. Trains were delayed and the city practically cut off from telegraphic communication with the world.

President Roosevelt and President-elect Taft, under escort, rode to the Capitol in closed carriages. Owing to the weather, the inaugural ceremonies proper occurred in the Senate chamber, where President Taft took the oath and delivered his inaugural address, instead of on the huge stand erected for this purpose on the east plaza—to the disappointment of thousands of people.

Mr. Roosevelt was the first to congratulate his successor. Their leave-taking was the most impressive feature of the scene in the Senate chamber. Immediately the ex-President left the Capitol and was escorted to the Union Station, where he joined Mrs. Roosevelt aboard a train for New York, occupying a state-room in a regular Pullman.

President Taft and Mrs. Taft and Vice President Sherman and Mrs. Sherman rode in open carriages from the Capitol to the White House and received a continuous ovation. It was the first time that the first lady of the land had thus shared honors with her husband in the inaugural procession.

The pageant was made up of some 37,000 men. It lacked life and color, owing to the adverse conditions, and did not move compactly or smoothly, for like reason. The army and navy was largely represented, and the sailors from the round-the-world fleet received marked attention. The civic division was picturesque. Gov. Hughes was cheered all along the line. While imposing, the parade, in comparison with others, was not an altogether inspiring spectacle. It consumed three hours in passing the White House reviewing stand. President Taft evinced hearty enjoyment of it as a whole, but Mrs. Taft and other ladies were soon forced to seek refuge from the raw afternoon wind.

The fireworks display from the White Lot in the evening, a gorgeous spectacle, was witnessed by countless thousands of people.

As a culminating feature of the day's festivities, the inaugural ball, in the Pension Building, was brilliantly successful—perhaps the most successful function of that character in years.

Inaugural concerts in the Pension Building to-day and to-morrow will complete the events of the week.

HERMIT LEFT \$300,000.

Man Who Died in Charity Ward of Hospital Kept Secret Well.

Danville, Ill., March 4.—After living here eighteen years as a poverty-stricken bachelor hermit, Daniel Sheridan, age sixty-five, died in the charity ward of a local hospital, leaving \$300,000. A nurse found \$300,000 in bills and coins sewed in the lining of his waistcoat as she was about to burn it.

Sheridan told later where to find certain papers, which showed he possessed lands of great value, including a 400-acre farm near Joliet, Ill., and 300 acres near Washington, Ind. He left no will. His relatives buried him in a \$1,500 coffin.

Robert Lynch, his cousin, from Monrovia, says a love affair caused Sheridan to become a recluse.

VIRGINIA FRUIT RUINED.

Half of the Crop Said to Be Destroyed by Blizzard.

Special to The Washington Herald. Richmond, Va., March 4.—As a result of the blizzard, which swept over Virginia to-day and last night, it is estimated that over half of the fruit crop is ruined.

The warm weather of the past three weeks caused all fruit to be far advanced for this time of the year. In Loudoun County the bulbs were getting ready to burst.

The loss of the fruit crop, it is said by fruit men to-night, will almost be incalculable.

Stephenson Re-elected.

Madison, Wis., March 4.—The joint session of the State legislature to-day re-elected Senator Stephenson for the term beginning to-day.

Widow of Bishop Potter Dead. New York, March 4.—Mrs. Potter, widow of Bishop Henry Codman Potter, died to-day of Bright's disease.

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to Philadelphia and New York.

Royal Blue Trains from Union Station.

"Every Old Hour" during the day—7, 9, 11, 1, 3, 5 o'clock—with parlor cars and dining cars. Night trains at 12:15 and 2:30 a. m., with drawing-room sleeping cars.

Special Train to Cleveland.

Pennsylvania Railroad, account inauguration, Leave Union Station, Washington, 5:45 p. m., March 5, 6, and 7. Through sleeping cars to Pittsburgh and Cleveland, dining car.

Violets, 5c per bunch. Kramer, 215 F.

MARCHERS DEFY
RAIN AND SNOWVagaries of Weather Fail to
Daunt Paraders.

ENTHUSIASM ALONG THE LINE

New Chief Executive Smiles and Acknowledges Salutes—Given Ovation in Ride from Capitol to the White House—Vice President Sherman Is Cheered Along Line of March.

Without hitch or delay 37,000 men marched down Pennsylvania avenue yesterday, defying wind, rain, and snow.

They were there to represent the United States of America, to honor the inauguration of the Presidency and Vice Presidency of William Howard Taft and James Schoolcraft Sherman, and mere frivolous vagaries of the weather were brushed aside without the flick of an eyelid.

Spectators Shiver.

President Taft's inauguration will be remembered for all time as a season of blue noses and cold feet, warmed by an enthusiasm that passed all understanding. Along the line of march 37,000 men, women, and children shivered through the three hours and forty minutes of the long pageant, and tossed their arms in a hysterical outburst of feeling as platoon after platoon and regiment after regiment passed by.

President Taft's inaugural parade must go down in history as one that fell short of expectations in point of numbers. It was anticipated that more than 37,000 military men and civilians would march. The weather unexpectedly prevented the realization of this hope.

But President Taft's inauguration parade will also go down in history as one of the most enthusiastic welcomes that has ever been accorded an incoming Chief Executive.

Cheered by Thousands.

The outburst began when President Taft, escorted by the famous "Million Dollar Black Horse Troop," or Troop A, of the Ohio National Guard, left the Capitol after the delivery of his inaugural speech and swung into the Avenue, bound for the White House.

As the new President, seated in a carriage beside Mrs. Taft, was carried down the historic highway, the cheers from thousands of throats on either side of the street followed him through black after black.

Holding his silk hat high, and smiling happily from side to side, Mr. Taft acknowledged the tribute of the populace. The wind blew straight as a die down the Avenue, from the Treasury Building to the Capitol. The white pennants at intervals along the way pointed quivering toward the Peace Monument. The slanting guidons of the marching forces flew back over their shoulders.

Separated from the vast concourse, it was hard to stand against the force of the elements. The flag bearers leaned forward against the wind and struggled with their noisy pennants. The bandmen blew until they were red in the face to force air out of their instruments. Horses dodged and slush flew sideways from beating feet.

But on went the army of inauguration, relentlessly, enthusiastically, to pass the stand where the new head of the army and navy waited to review them.

Mass of Humanity.

For hours before the parade started the space behind the ropes was lined ten deep with a solid mass of humanity. A feeling of suspense came over the multitude, and the period of inaction was punctuated by meaningless ejaculations and hails from one side of the street to the other. Policemen afoot and on horseback passed down the lines, commanding and exhorting. Men and women without proper passes pleaded to be allowed to cross the streets, and were refused.

Here and there women fainted from exposure and excitement, and the crowds suddenly parted to admit an ambulance. Then, when the tension was at its height, word passed like lightning that "Taft was coming," and a hush came over the multitude.

Sylvester Is First.

Maj. Richard Sylvester, superintendent of the Metropolitan police force, was the first man to appear, commanding a platoon of mounted police. The officers of the law passed in extended line down the

Continued on Page 3, Column 2.

Floral Decorators Inaugural Ball. J. H. Small & Sons, 11th and G, Wash.; Waldorf-Astoria and 113 Broadway, N. Y.

Pennsylvania Railroad City Ticket Office Open at Night.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company announces that during inauguration week and until March 19 its city ticket office, at 15th and G sts., will be kept open for the sale of tickets and the reservation of Pullman accommodations until 10 p. m.

Violets, 5c per bunch. Kramer, 215 F.

STRAUS FOR JAPAN.

One of President Taft's earliest diplomatic nominations will be that of Secretary of Commerce and Labor Straus as Ambassador to Japan. Mr. Straus has signified his willingness to accept the place. He was formerly Minister to Turkey during the second Cleveland administration.

Secretary of the Navy Newberry has been offered a position as Ambassador to a European court, but it is said that he will decline it.

CONGRESS REOPENS MARCH 15.

Extra Session Will Be Taken Up Entirely by Tariff.

The extra session of the Sixty-first Congress will convene at noon March 15, following a proclamation of the President, to begin the work of revising the tariff schedules.

Until then many of the members of Congress will remain in Washington, while others, those who live in near-by States, will return to their homes.

There will be no committees appointed at the next session of Congress except those absolutely necessary to carry on the tariff revision and conduct the two branches of the legislative department of the government. By a special order all the committees will hold over in the Senate, but no work other than that pertaining to tariff will be referred to them.

In his inaugural address yesterday the President said that in view of the long and difficult task he did not believe the members of Congress should be taxed with any other business, and his message at the opening of the next session will in all probability contain instructions only on that subject.

CONFIRM CABINET TO-DAY.

Senate Will Act on Taft's Nominations in Special Meeting.

By a special order the Senate will convene to-day at noon and immediately confirm the nominations of President Taft's Cabinet members.

It is not thought the Senators will be in session more than thirty minutes, and when the list has been ratified adjournment will be taken until March 15, when, by proclamation of the President, a special session will convene to revise the tariff.

In his speech yesterday President Taft urged that nothing be attempted in the line of new legislation at the extra session except the tariff revision.

LONDON PRAISES ROOSEVELT.

His Only Rival for World Popularity Is Kaiser Wilhelm.

London, March 4.—The London morning papers publish long editorials, articles of appreciation, and the portraits of the incoming and the outgoing Presidents of the United States.

The tributes to President Roosevelt are of the most enthusiastic character. They rank him in the great line with Washington, Lincoln, and Grant, as the most fascinating personality in the two hemispheres, only rivaled in that respect by the Emperor of Germany. His government marked the consolidation of America's position as a world power, as the Morning Post says, "without attacks on the rights or interests of other nations."

MIDDIES LOST IN THE SHUFFLE

Two Annapolis Battalions Failed to
Appear in Parade.Wireless Is Used Attempting to
Locate Them, but Whereabouts
Is Not Divulged.

Conflicting rumors regarding the two battalions of midshipmen from the Naval Academy at Annapolis, who were to have marched in the inaugural parade, and who failed to appear, were afloat last night.

The embryo naval officers were successively placed in a snowdrift somewhere between Annapolis and Washington; in two snowdrifts; in Annapolis, and half in Annapolis and half in Washington.

The government wireless was called into play last night by Admiral John E. Pillsbury, chief of the Bureau of Navigation, in an effort to locate the missing midshipmen. All wires were down between the two cities, and the wireless was the only means of communication left.

A wireless message was sent soon after the inaugural parade ended to Capt. Badger, superintendent of the Naval Academy, announcing that the two battalions had not arrived and asking if they had returned to the Academy.

The result of this message could not be learned from officers of the Bureau of Navigation last night. Whether Capt. Badger could give information, or whether a reply was received from him, was not known.

According to the most reliable information at hand, the cadets left Annapolis yesterday morning, one battalion going by steam railroad, the other by the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis electric line. This report has it that the electric line contingent is still caught somewhere in the snowdrifts, and that the other battalion arrived at about 9 o'clock last night at the Union Station.

Divorced for Twitting Husband.

Fort Wayne, Ind., March 4.—In spite of the fact that he had lived sixty-five of his seventy-seven years without a wife, August Doudik asked for a divorce on the grounds that his wife twitted him day and night about being a gay Lothario, and that he could stand it no longer. The judge granted him a divorce.

\$1.25 to Baltimore and Return, Saturdays and Sundays via Pennsylvania Railroad. Tickets good returning until Sunday night. All regular trains except the "Congressional Limited."

Matinee, Cohn & Harris' Minstrels, To-day, Columbia Theater, 5c to \$1.50.

"Royal Limited" to Philadelphia and New York.

"Finest daylight train in America" leaves Union Station daily at 3 p. m. via Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. All Pullman train of cafe, smoking, and parlor cars; observation and dining cars.

Violets, 5c per bunch. Kramer, 215 F.

INAUGURAL BALL
BRILLIANT AFFAIRCulmination of Ceremonies
at Pension Office.

GUESTS THROU FLOOR

President Taft and His Party
Are Early Arrivals.

Vice President Comes in for Greeting—Applause Continues While the Presidential Party Are in Box. Dancing Does Not Commence Until New Executive Leaves—Chairman Stettinwagen Is Congratulated.

The culmination of the inaugural ceremonies was the inaugural ball, held at the Pension Office Building. It will always be held remarkable, in that it was the first official function attended by President Taft.

It was conceded on all sides that this was the prettiest ball yet, and indeed it was the prettiest ball, in point of beautiful gowns and women, as well as decorations.

The President and Mrs. Taft did not arrive in their box until close to 9:30, and it was a vast, expectant, distinguished gathering which greeted them. The Marine Band played lustily the "Star Spangled Banner" to announce the approach of the new Chief Executive and his party, and the applause and cheering were long and loud when President and Mrs. Taft appeared in the ballroom, flanked on either side by Mr. E. J. Stettinwagen, chairman of the inaugural committee, and Mr. Theodore Noyes, respectively, followed by the Vice President and Mrs. Sherman.

Ropes of Ribbon.

They made a trip down an aisle formed by ribbon ropes, and around the flower-decked fountain, smiling and bowing to friends, both old and new, all along the route, which was well picketed with members of the committee.

The aisle was made down the center of the ballroom, from the west entrance, just around the fountain, and the party returned to the stairway by the same aisle, amid continuous cheering and applause from men, women, and children alike.

Ascending the stairs the party went at once to the private room in the southwest corner of the building, which had been set aside and specially decorated for the President and Mrs. Taft.

Held a Reception.

Here the President and Vice President, and their wives, held a reception for the guests specially invited to the private galleries.

After this reception, they again appeared to the anxiously awaiting throng, in the President's beautifully decorated box. Their appearance was again the signal for enthusiastic cheers and applause. Mrs. Taft taking her place first in the front of the box, followed by Mrs. Sherman, then Mr. Taft and then Mr. Sherman, each individual receiving an ovation.

Mr. Taft was urged by those about him, the aids at the White House and the ladies of the party, and finally took his seat in the high-backed, throne-like chair, sent over from New York, especially for the occasion, by Mr. E. F. Caldwell.

Filled the Chair.

It was so high that when the ponderous figure of Mr. Taft got in it, and, by the way, completely filled it, his feet were some inches from the floor, and he landed in the chair with a jerk, which produced a hearty laugh all over the ball.

The President then swung his feet, which produced more hearty laughter. The admiring throng stood as close as possible to the box, and at every move, which was frequent, they gave a fresh outburst. All four of the prominent figures in this pretty scene greeted many friends cordially from their elevated positions, smiling and waving their hands on all sides.

Miss Helen Taft and her brothers, Robert and Charles, came in for their share of attention in the box. Miss Taft presenting an attractive picture in her simple, yet graceful and girlish gown of white, with a bouquet of lilacs of the valley and red roses, and her sweet though serious face. Master Charles was a quiet and very interested little figure in a corner of the box.

New Cabinet Circle.

All around and about them, on the sides and at the back, where the members of the new Cabinet circle, who were in their places at the back of the chairs of the President's party when they entered. The floor of the box was so arranged that those at the back were all higher than those in the front row. It made a veritable picture, the front row when seated being Mr. Sherman at the south end of the box, the Vice President next, the President next to him, and in the middle, with Mrs. Taft on his left, and Mrs. Torrey occupying the large chair in the northern end of the box, her black velvet gown and white hair standing out prominently against the background of rambler vines with their rich red roses, which crept up at the sides of the box.

The party remained thus for fully half an hour. The party then left the box for supper, which was served in a room at the back of the box and to the north of it, opposite the reception room of the President.

Here they lingered for some time, but the throng patiently waited. Those who had the inclination, and could find the space, danced.

It was quite 11:30 when the President and his party returned to the box, where they received even a warmer welcome.

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Special Train to Chicago. Pennsylvania Railroad, account inauguration, Leave Union Station, Washington, 5:45 p. m., March 5, 6, and 7. Through sleeping cars. Dining car.

Violets, 5c per bunch. Kramer, 215 F.